

Rural Capacity Grant PRE-APPLICATION FORM

The pre-application is designed to provide the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) staff with introductory knowledge of a community's project idea. This allows OCRA's staff to give feedback to the community. The completed pre-application will become the executive summary of the grant application.

The following questions are designed to provide a general understanding of the project and to ensure that the project is in compliance with the Rural Capacity Grant guidelines. Please prepare answers to the following questions in a typed document, up to four pages in length.

1. Please briefly describe the community need being addressed and how this project will meet that need.
2. Which community organizations do you expect will be partners in your effort?
3. What are the goals of the project and what measurable outcomes are expected?
4. What measures will you take to ensure the project's sustainability at the end of the grant period?

See reverse side for more information.

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RURAL CAPACITY GRANTS



Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs
One North Capitol Avenue, Suite 600
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2288
TOLL FREE: 800-824-2476
www.ocra.IN.gov



WWW.OCRA.IN.GOV

What is a Rural Capacity Grant?

A Rural Capacity Grant is a non-competitive grant funding opportunity designed to allow 501(c) organizations to build the capacity of rural communities. Grants are available for rural entrepreneurial support or workforce and educational development projects.

Who can apply for a Rural Capacity Grant?

Any 501(c) organization properly registered with the Indiana Secretary of State or governmental entity in a rural area can apply. Eligible entities include educational organizations, community foundations, local economic development organizations, workforce boards, chambers of commerce, small business development centers or other non-profit organizations.

Is my community rural?

A rural community is generally defined as having a population of less than 50,000 people; however, communities with less than 50,000 people, which are adjacent to an urbanized area with a population of greater than 50,000, are not considered rural. County-wide or regional projects may serve a population greater than 50,000.



About OCRA: The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs was created in 2005, making rural areas a priority for the first time in Indiana's history. Under the leadership of Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, OCRA strives to assist rural communities in achieving their own visions for economic development.

***To learn more about Rural Capacity Grants, please visit:
www.ocra.IN.gov***

General Requirements:

- Applicants must contact their local Community Liaisons to discuss the scope of their projects prior to completing the pre-application form on the reverse side of this page. Community Liaisons will provide technical assistance throughout the application process. Visit www.in.gov/ocra/2330.htm to find contact information for your area's Community Liaison.
- The proposed project must be new or expanded and serve a rural area.
- A non-profit organization must be the lead applicant.
- The project must be a collaborative effort of two or more entities.
- A local match of 20% of the grant funds requested is required. Other state and federal dollars cannot be used as matching funds.
- An applicant may request a maximum of \$150,000.
- Administrative costs of the project may not exceed 10% of the project budget and operational costs such as rent, utilities, and insurance are not permitted.
- Funds cannot be used to purchase, build, or improve a facility.